

FOR AGENDA



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
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Washington, D.C. 20230

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Mr. Edmond J. Thomas
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

MAR - 1 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: Amendment of Part 15 Regarding New Requirements and Measurement Guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems (FCC 04-29), ET Docket No. 04-37

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In my letter of September 13, 2004 on this subject, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) listed several federal government radio receiver sites around which "BPL exclusion zones" should be established. These exclusion zones were subsequently adopted in your Report and Order and published in the Federal Register. In review of these pending new rules, the National Science Foundation has determined that the exclusion zones specified for nine of the ten "Very Long Baseline Array" radioastronomy facilities at 73.0 - 74.6 MHz are not needed. Only one exclusion zone is needed at these frequencies around the "Very Large Array" antenna, which is deployed throughout the Plains of San Agustin, NM, within a 36 km circle centered on the coordinate 34° 04' 43.50" N, 107° 37' 03.82" W.

Attached please find a specific proposed rule correction that applies our previously agreed protection distances with respect to the above antenna deployment area. The 65 km radius of the exclusion zone for Access BPL systems using overhead medium voltage power lines is the sum of the 36 km radius of the antenna array and the previously agreed exclusion distance of 29 km. Similarly, the 47 km radius of the exclusion zone for Access BPL systems using overhead low-voltage and underground medium-voltage power lines is the sum of the 36 km radius of the antenna array and the previously agreed exclusion distance of 11 km. I believe that this proposed correction significantly reduces potential deployment constraints on Access BPL deployment and does not detrimentally affect any parties.

Sincerely,

Fredrick R. Wentland
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

Enclosure: Proposed Correction of BPL Rules

cc: Bruce A. Franca, Deputy Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology

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List ABOVE

PROPOSED CORRECTION OF BPL RULES

Section 15.615 General administrative requirements

(f) *Federal government spectrum users and other radio service users.*

(2). *Exclusion zones.* Exclusion zones encompass ...

(iii) *Very Large Baseline-Array (VLBA) radio astronomy observatories.*

Access BPL systems using overhead medium voltage power lines shall not operate in the frequency band 73.0 – 74.6 MHz, within 2965 km of the coordinates 34° 04' 43.50" N, 107° 37' 03.82" W of the ~~ten (10)~~ (the center of the Very Long Baseline Large Array antenna) facilities listed in 47 CFR 2.106, Note US113. Access BPL systems using overhead low voltage power lines or underground power lines shall not operate in the 73.0 – 74.6 MHz band within ~~44~~47 km of theseat coordinates.